

## Focus on Jimson Weed

Also known as: Moonflower, Devil's Apple, Devil's Trumpet, Jamestown Weed, Mad Apple, Nightshade, Peru Apple, Stinkweed, Stinkwort, Stramonium, Thorn Apple, Torna Loco, *Datura Stramonium*

*Datura Stramonium* is a legal plant common to dry rangelands, pastures, and vacant lots across North America. It likes elevations of 4,000-6,000 feet (grows rampant on the Colorado National Monument).

This plant can grow as high as 5 feet and produces a rank smelling flower that ranges from white to violet in color and a spiny capsule that contains the seeds; it blooms from June to September. All parts of the *Datura Stramonium* are toxic, the leaves, flower and seeds being the most toxic parts and containing the higher amounts of alkaloids atropine, hyoscyamine, and scopolamine.

*Datura Stramonium*, more commonly known as Jimson Weed, is classified as a hallucinogen. Hallucinogens are chemically diverse groups of drugs that alter mood through perception and brain function. LSD, PCP, hallucinogenic mushrooms, mescaline, and peyote being some of the more common hallucinogens.

Jimson Weed is a very inexpensive hallucinogen.. There are several ways in which the jimson weed can be ingested: smoked on its own or in combination with other substances, taken orally, chewed on sucked on or added to different foods; it can also be made into tea, and a paste can be made from the leaves and roots. Jimson Weed will take effect 30-60 minutes after ingestion and may stay in the system and produce a 24-48 hour high.

Some common effects of the jimson weed include:

- Flushing of the Skin
- Dilated Pupils
- Dry Mucous Membranes
- Thirst
- Difficulty Swallowing and Speaking
- Blurred Vision
- Phobia and Panic
- Confusion and Agitation
- Violent Behavior
- Very Vivid Hallucinations (hearing colors or seeing sounds)
- Delusion
- Attraction to Water

The most dangerous aspect of the jimson weed is that the lethal dose/effective dose ratio is dangerously close; further more, the strength of the chemicals in the wild plants range considerably. Taking jimson weed has on occasion been referred to as the "herbal Russian roulette" because the user is unable to distinguish between reality and hallucination, which may at times lead the user into potentially fatal situations.

